

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release

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Two Louisianans arrested on felony counts for waste tire violations

BATON ROUGE – Today, investigators within the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality arrested two waste tire transporters from Church Point on numerous felony counts related to the Louisiana Waste Tire Management Fund. DEQ-CID was assisted by the Louisiana Office of the Inspector General.

Majella Green, 56, and Laura Senegal, 37, are the owners and operators of L&M Tire Transport. They were charged with 23 counts of filing false public records, 21 counts of theft of approximately \$4,000 and 21 counts of forgery. Green and Senegal were allegedly transporting waste tires from non-registered tire generators, but claiming on manifests that the tires were generated from registered tire generators so that they could be reimbursed by Colt Tire, a waste tire processor.

Under Louisiana law, tire dealerships have the responsibility to register with the department and collect a fee for each tire that is replaced on a vehicle. The fee on the sale of a tire is collected by the retail tire dealership and remitted the department to be deposited into the Louisiana Waste Tire Management Fund. This fund is used to reimburse waste tire processors for converting the eligible waste tires into usable material that is approved by the department for a beneficial end-use market. The collection, transportation and processing of eligible waste tires is regulated utilizing a manifest system.

"The DEQ's Waste Tire Program is a success story for the state," said DEQ Undersecretary Vince Sagnibene. "Through this program, the state has been able to keep discarded tires from ending up in clandestine waste tire piles. I commend the DEQ-CID and the Inspector General's office for their efforts to maintain a level playing field for all in the waste tire program. Anyone committing fraud pertaining to the Waste Tire Program faces possible jail time and heavy fines. This should be an incentive to abide by the program's rules and regulations."

Filing false public records containing a false representation of material fact is a felony under Title 14 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. If convicted of the crime of filing false public records, Green and Senegal face possible imprisonment for not more than five years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both. If convicted of the crime of forgery, Green and Senegal face possible imprisonment for not more than 10 years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both. If convicted of the crime of theft, Green and Senegal face possible imprisonment for not more than 10 years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both.

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is to protect the environment and public health. Any persons with knowledge of any spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents may contact the department at 225-219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424.

An arrest does not constitute guilt in a criminal case. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to the area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.